IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

Timothy W. CONNER of al. 2 3 20

Appln. No.: 09/540,234

Filed: April 3, 2000

For: Nucleic Acid Molecules Associated

With Plants

Art Unit: 1631

Examiner: S. ZHOU

Atty. Docket: 38-21(15726)B

JAN 2 4 2002 FCH CENTER 1600/200

Amendments and Reply

Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Attn: Box Non-fee Amendment

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed October 23, 2001 (paper number 5), Applicants submit the following amendments and remarks.

Amendments

Please amend the application as follows:

In the Specification

Please replace the title of the application with the following new title:

NUCLEIC ACID MOLECULES ASSOCIATED WITH PLANTS

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 16, and ending on page 5,

line 25, with the following paragraph:

χ

Similarity analysis includes database search and alignment. Examples of public databases include the DNA Database of Japan (DDBJ) (www.ddbj.nig.ac.jp/); Genbank (www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/web/Genbank/Index.html); and the European Molecular Biology Laboratory Nucleic Acid Sequence Database (EMBL)